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grew steadily brighter for some days. On January 6th and 7th I noted it as distinctly brighter than  $\delta$  *Ceti*. Bad weather came on, and I did not see it again till January 20th and 21st, when it seemed to me somewhat brighter than on the 7th. On February 12th I noted it, nearly as bright as  $\gamma$ , distinctly inferior to  $\alpha$  *Ceti*.

"February 16th, *Mira* still as bright as  $\gamma$ .

"February 21st, *Mira* less bright than  $\gamma$ .

"Bad weather and the low altitude of *Mira* later on prevented any more observations; but there could be no doubt that the maximum was much later than the time given in the almanacs."

#### VIEW OF MOUNTAIN OBSERVATORIES.

The Smithsonian Institution is now printing in its *Miscellaneous Collections* a memoir on "Mountain Observatories in America and Europe," by Dr. EDWARD S. HOLDEN. The illustrations to this volume are printed in the present number of the *Publications*. The titles of the cuts are a sufficient explanation. A number of the cuts have previously been printed by the A. S. P.; but most of them are new to our members. It may be convenient and interesting to collect all of them in one place.

THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION.

#### A METEOR IN MEXICO (JULY 22, 1896.)

CITY OF MEXICO, July 23.—A remarkable phenomenon occurred yesterday at the mine of Santos Reyes, in the State of Chihuahua. At 3 o'clock a tremendous explosion was heard, and an enormous mass of burning matter was seen to fall from the heavens, striking the side of a mountain and bringing with it in its course entire cliffs. It finally plunged 700 feet into the ground, making a hole from which boiling water still issues. A heavy rain occurred immediately after the descent of the meteor. The meteor destroyed the house of a miner, killing his two children.

#### BRIGHT METEOR, JULY 31, 1896.

At  $10^h 33^m 26^s$ , P. S. T., just as the Moon was rising, the sky was illuminated by a flash, and upon looking up a train about five degrees long was seen to extend from the direction of *Arcturus*, the center of the train being about R. A.  $13^h 40^m$ , Decl.  $+20^\circ$ .

My attention was attracted entirely by the illumination of the sky, which was fully as brilliant as from a flash of lightning. The train remained visible for three or four seconds only.

C. D. P.

## SIXTEEN-INCH CLARK REFRACTOR FOR SALE.

The sixteen-inch CLARK refractor, shown in the cut facing page 186 of Volume VIII of these *Publications*, with its apparatus, is for sale at a considerable reduction from its first cost. For particulars apply to Dr. LEWIS SWIFT, Echo Mountain, California, U. S. A.

E. S. H.

## HEIGHTS OF MOUNTAIN-OBSERVATORIES.

It may be a convenience to have the following small table of the heights of the principal mountain-observatories and stations of the world.

E. S. H.

Abastouman, . . . . .	4600	Mt. Pilatus, . . . . .	6785
Alto de los Huesos, . . . . .	13300	Mt. Washington, . . . . .	6279
Arequipa, . . . . .	8060	Mt. Whitney—Summit, . . . . .	14900
Ben-Nevis, . . . . .	4368	Mountain Camp, . . . . .	12000
Chachani—Summit, . . . . .	20000	Lone Pine, . . . . .	3700
Station . . . . .	16650	Mt. Wilson, . . . . .	6000
Colorado Springs, . . . . .	6035	Mürren (Railway), . . . . .	5350
Cuzco, . . . . .	11000	Nice, Mont-Gros, . . . . .	1100
Denver (Chamberlin Observatory)	5400	Petrópolis (Brazil), . . . . .	3500
Echo Mountain, . . . . .	3500	Pic-du-Midi, . . . . .	9439
El Misti—Summit, . . . . .	19200	Pike's Peak, . . . . .	14134
Station . . . . .	15600	Popocatapetl, . . . . .	18000
Etna, . . . . .	9652	Puno, . . . . .	12608
Flagstaff, . . . . .	7300	Puy-de-Dôme, . . . . .	4593
Jungfrau, . . . . .	15700	Quito, . . . . .	9543
Kodiakanal, . . . . .	7700	Riffel (Zermatt), . . . . .	8000
La Joya, . . . . .	4150	Rigi, . . . . .	5873
La Paz, . . . . .	12050	St. Bernard, . . . . .	8130
Lick Observatory, . . . . .	4209	Santa Ana, . . . . .	3000
Misti—Summit, . . . . .	19200	Santis, . . . . .	8200
Station, . . . . .	15600	Seven Lakes (Colorado), . . . . .	10964
Mollendo, . . . . .	100	Sherman, . . . . .	8335
Mont-Blanc—M. Janssen's Observatory, . . . . .		Sonnblick, . . . . .	9843
Summit, . . . . .	15780	Tacubaya, . . . . .	7500
M. Vallois's Observatory, . . . . .	14321	Teneriffe—Summit, . . . . .	12198
Chamounix, . . . . .	3396	Alta Vista, . . . . .	10702
Mont-Gros (Nice), . . . . .	1100	Guajara, . . . . .	8903
Mont-Meige, . . . . .	13000	Vinocaya, . . . . .	14360
Mont Mounier, . . . . .	8993	Wendelstein, . . . . .	6027
Mt. Hamilton, . . . . .	4209		

## GIFTS TO THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

Miss CAROLINE W. BRUCE, of New York City, has given the Observatory a sum of money to procure a large comet-

seeker, and to provide photometers for visual use with the thirty-six-inch equatorial.

Mr. WALTER W. LAW, of Scarboro'-on-Hudson, has likewise made a liberal gift towards providing for the publication of the Observatory Atlas of the Moon mentioned in these *Publications*, Volume VIII, page 187. The grateful thanks of the Observatory are offered to these friends, who have made it possible to undertake new work.

EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

#### A BRILLIANT METEOR (JULY 29, 1896).

[Extract from a letter of Mr. F. H. SEARES, Berkeley.]

"The meteor made its appearance at  $10^h 17^m$ , P. S. T., at a point about  $10^\circ$  northwest of *Vega*, passed downward directly over the star *Mizar*; and, exploding, disappeared about  $15^\circ$  above the horizon. In brilliancy and appearance it was not unlike an ordinary arc lamp seen from a distance of one mile. The trail disappeared almost immediately."

#### HONORARY DEGREE CONFERRED UPON PROFESSOR HOLDEN.

The University of the Pacific, on its last Commencement Day, conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Science upon the Director of the LICK Observatory.

#### CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF JAMES LICK.

Mr. LICK was born in Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania, August 25, 1796. He died in San Francisco, October 1, 1876. The centenary of his birth will be kept as a holiday at the LICK Observatory, and an account of the work at the Observatory which he founded will be printed in the California newspapers.

EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

#### TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE OF AUGUST, 1896, IN JAPAN.

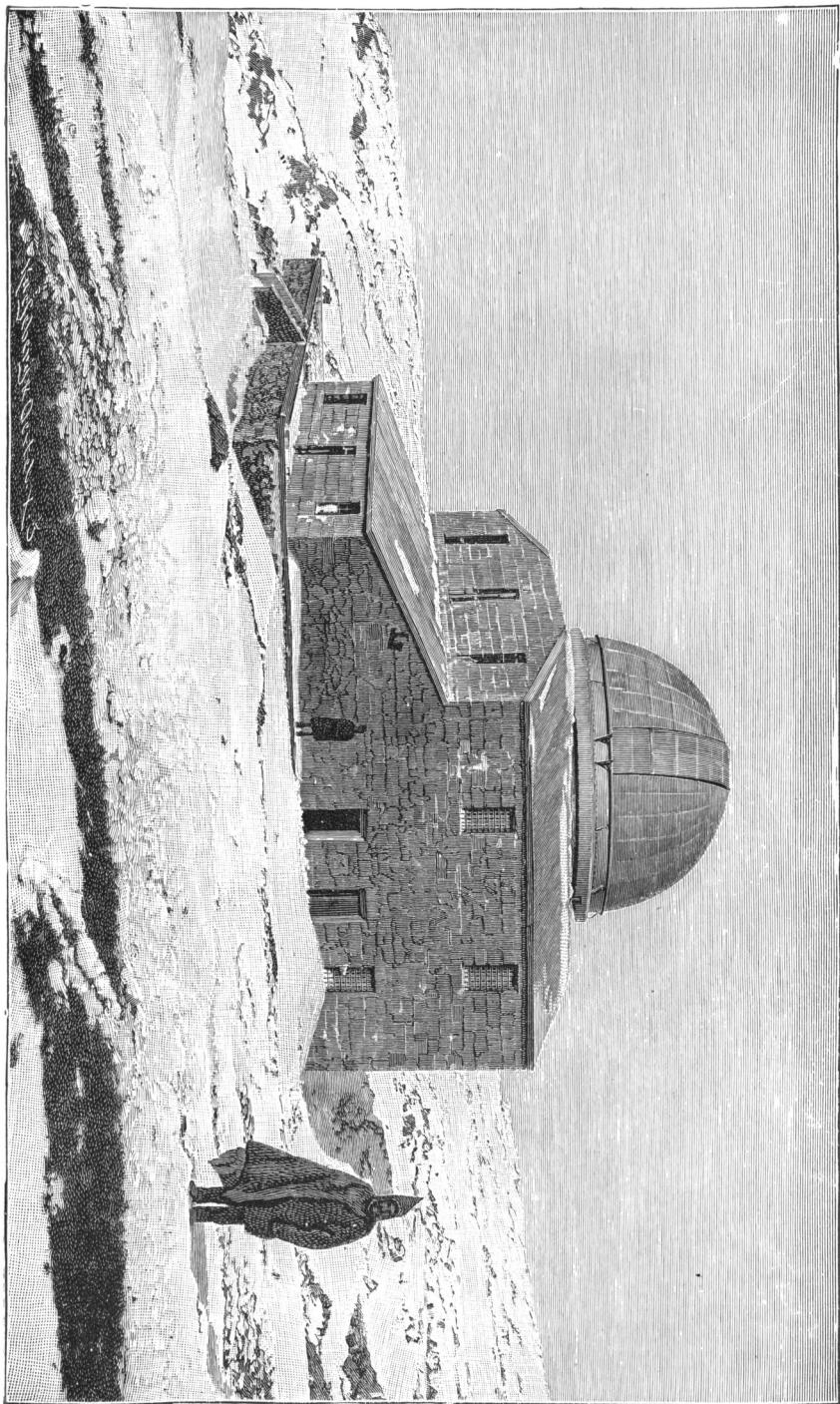
A cable-telegram from Professor SCHAEBERLE, in charge of the LICK Observatory Eclipse Expedition recites that the sky was wholly cloudy at his station.

E. S. H.

August 11, 1896.



*FIGURE 1.—THE ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY ON THE SUMMIT OF ETNA, (9,652 feet).*



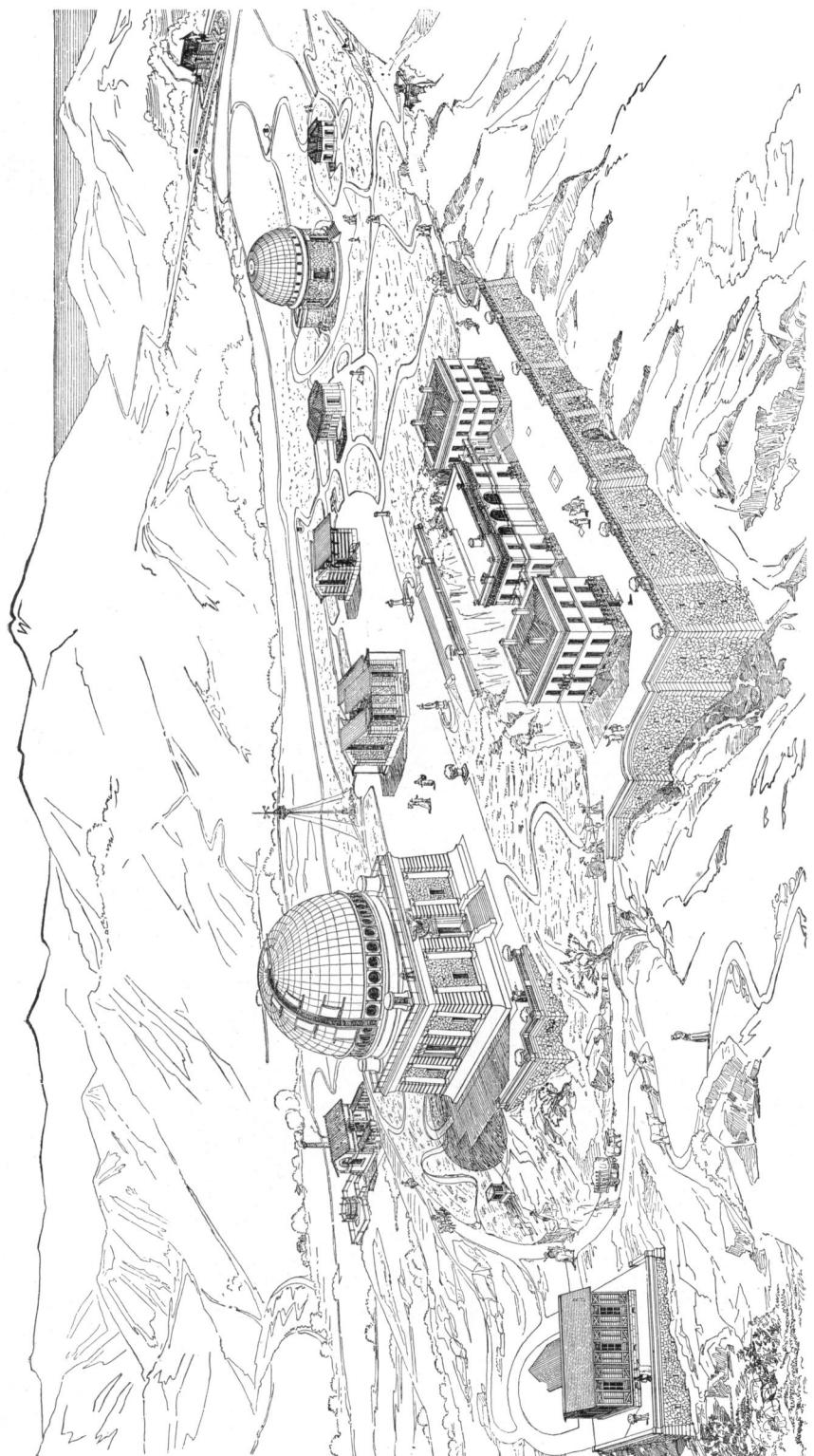
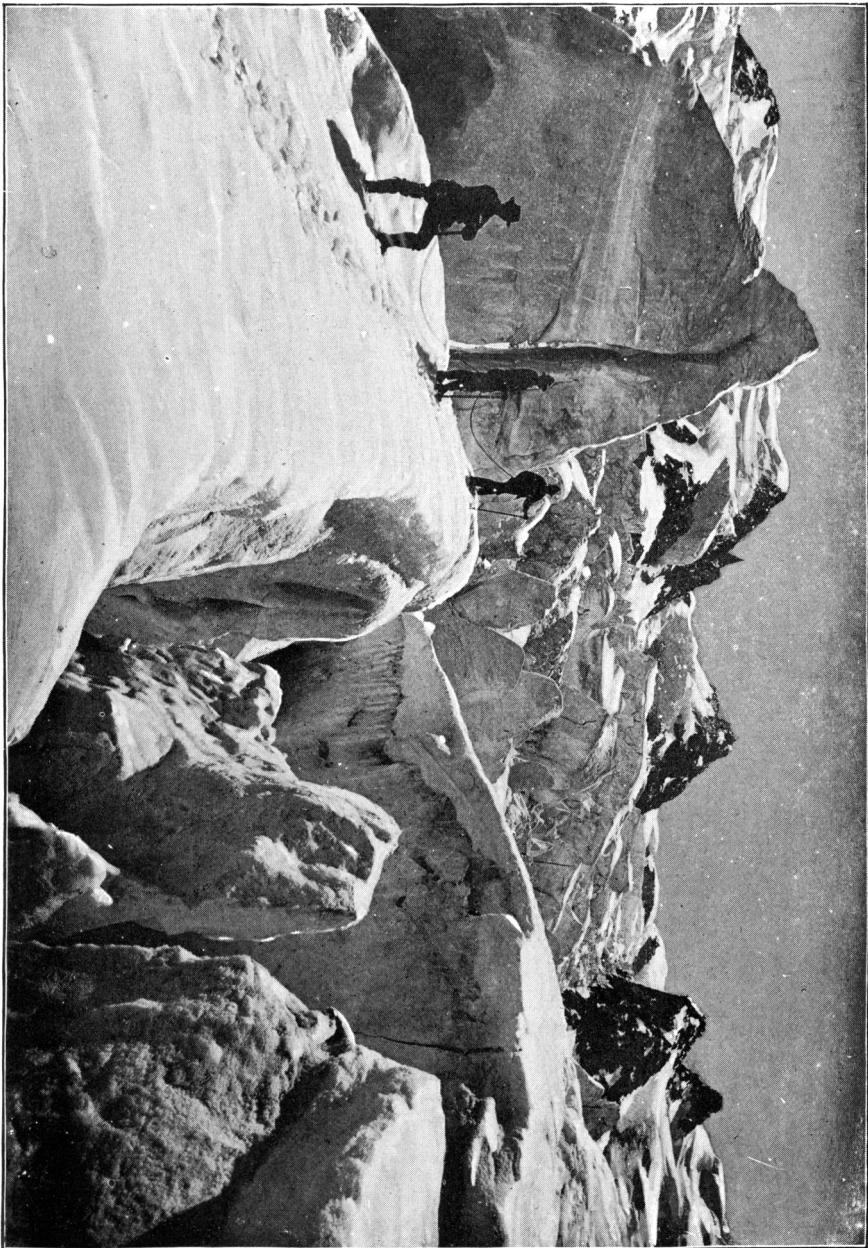


FIGURE 2.—THE ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY OF NICE, (1,100 feet).

*FIGURE 3:—ON THE WAY TO THE MONT-BLANC OBSERVATORY.*



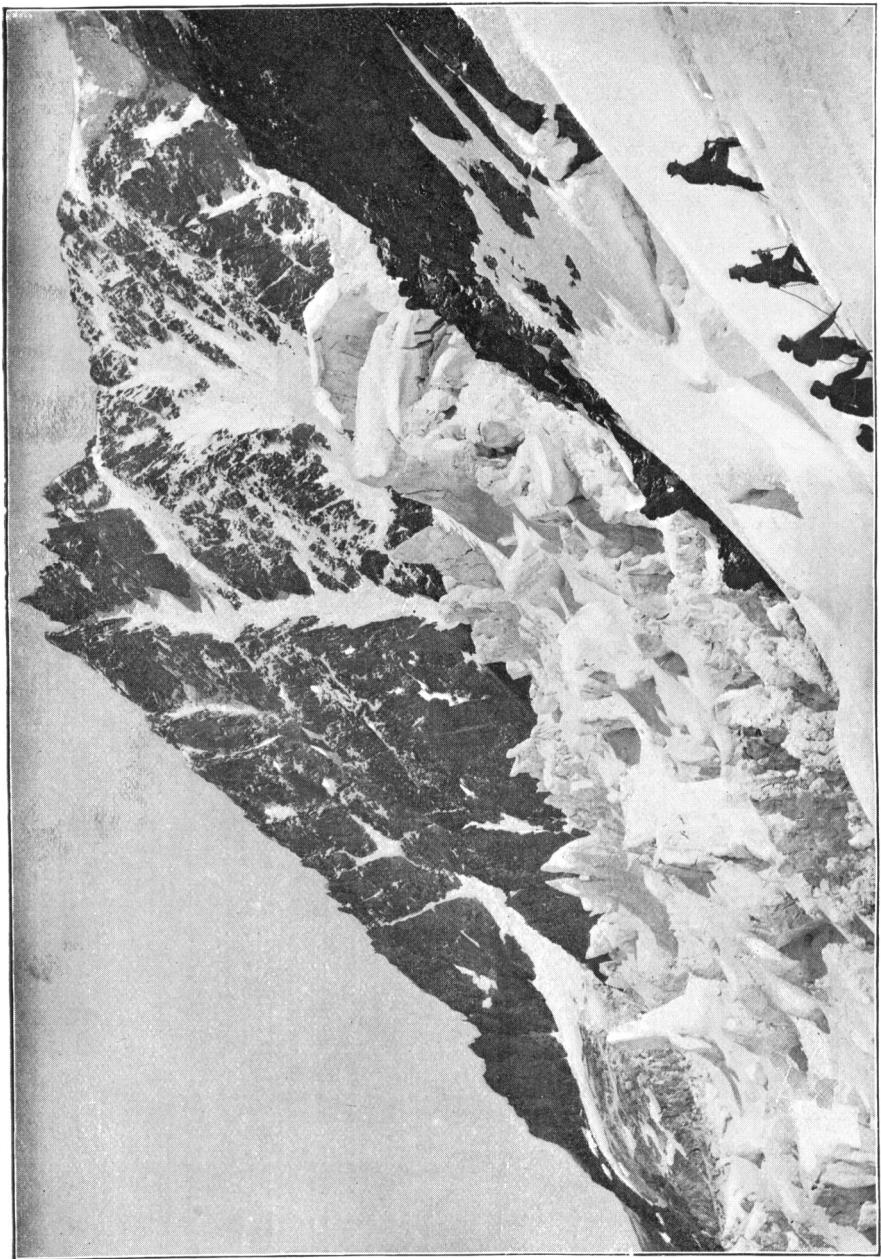
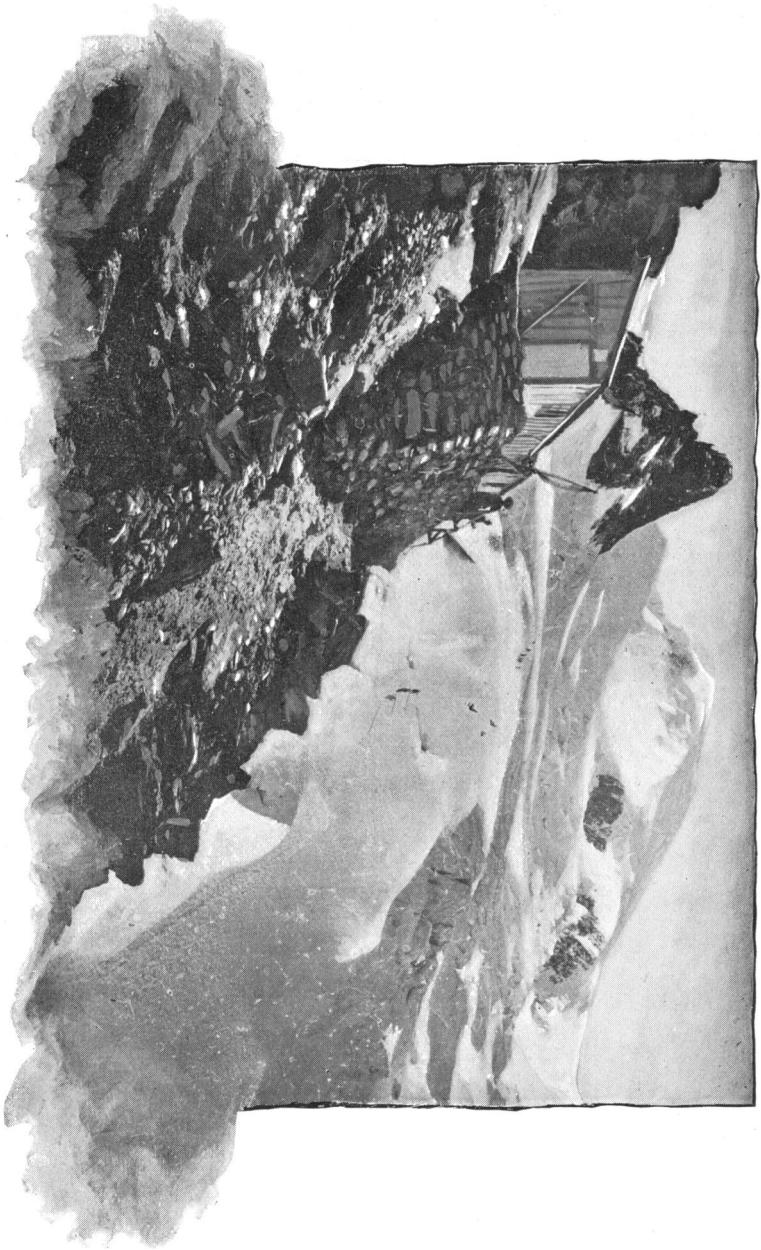


FIGURE 4:—ON THE WAY TO THE MONT-BLANC OBSERVATORY.

*FIGURE 5:—ON THE WAY TO THE MONT-BLANC OBSERVATORY—(The Refuge at Grands Mulets).*



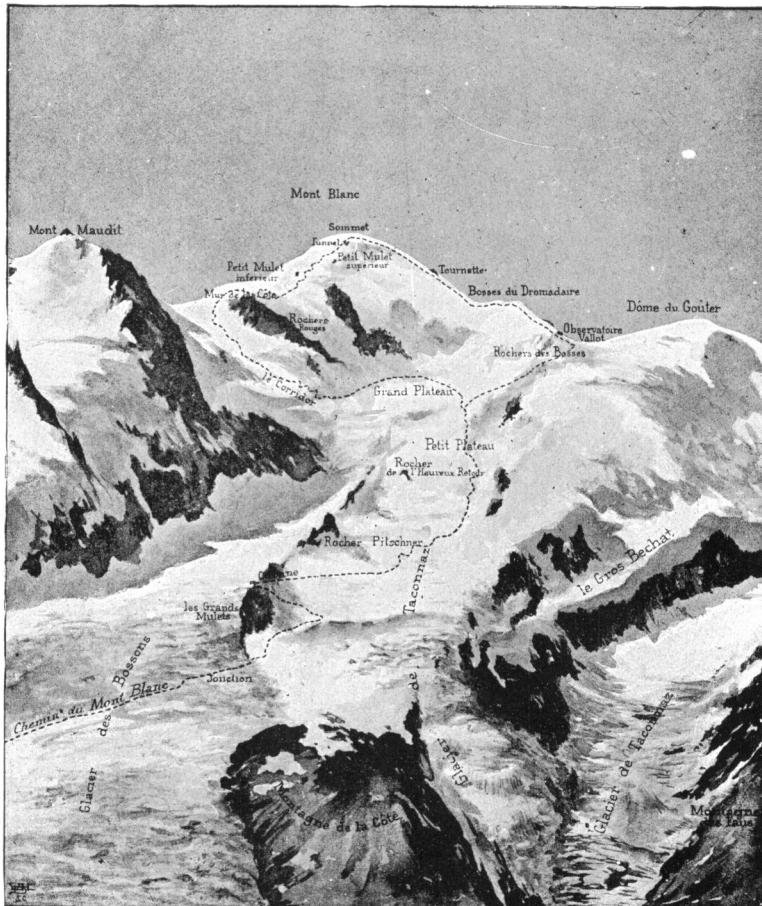


FIGURE 6.—VIEW OF MONT-BLANC, TAKEN FROM THE BREVENT.

*FIGURE 7:—ON THE WAY TO THE MONT-BLANC OBSERVATORY—(Passage of a Crevasse).*

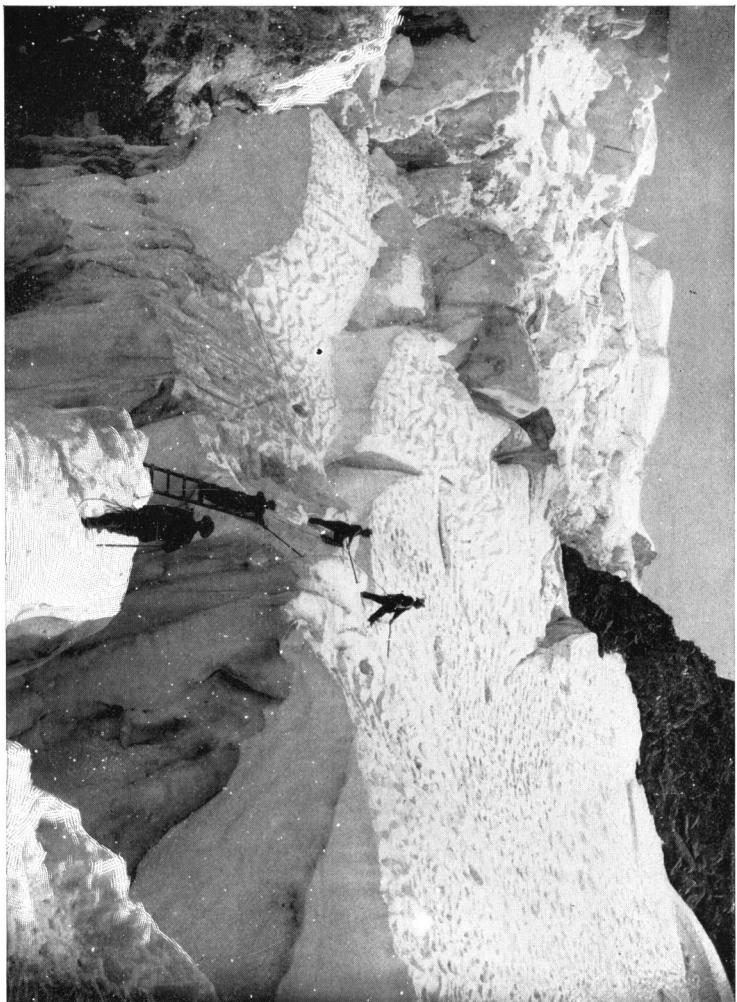




FIGURE 8.—M. JANSSEN'S OBSERVATORY AT THE SUMMIT OF MONT-BLANC, (15,780 feet).

FIGURE 9:—THE METEOROLOGICAL STATION ON THE SÄNTIS (8,200 feet).

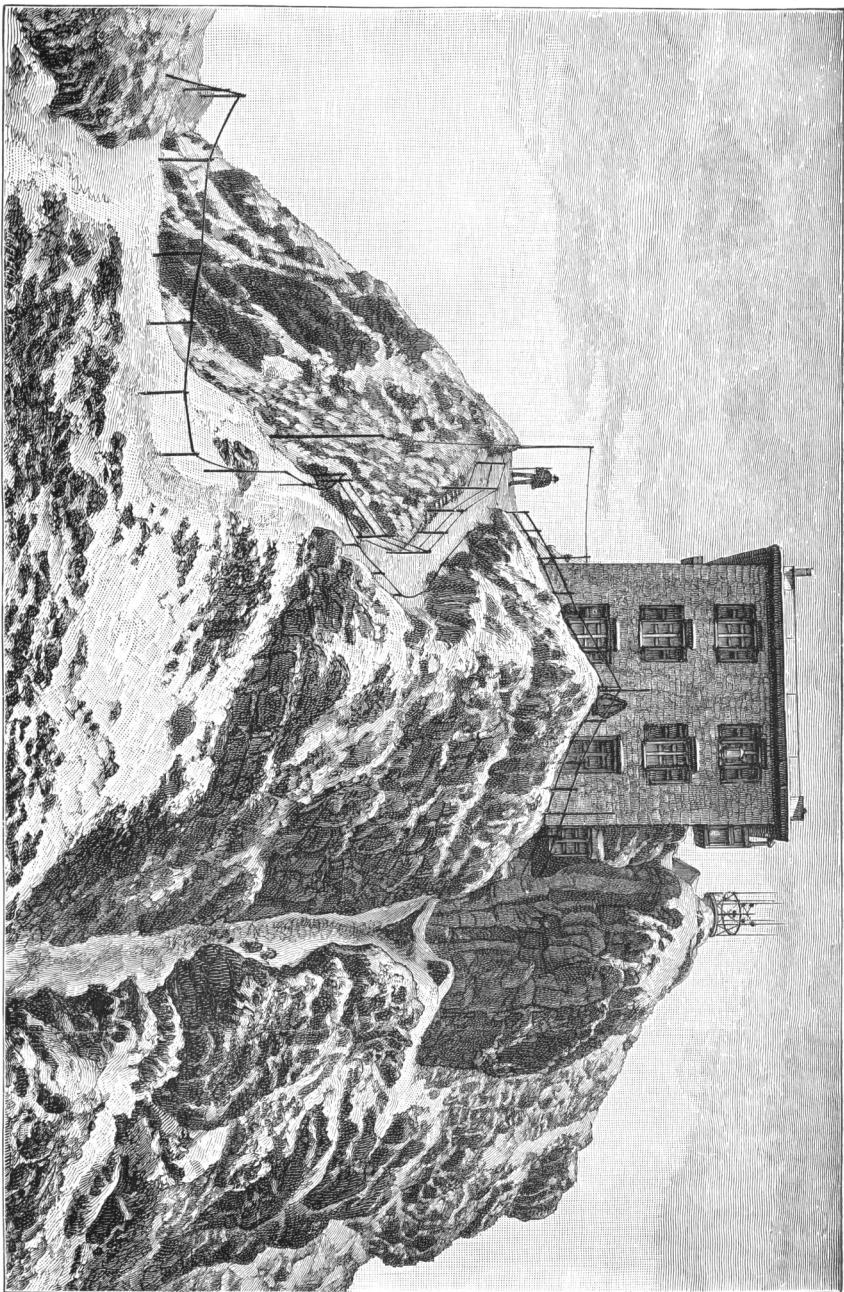


FIGURE 10.—METEOROLOGICAL STATION ON THE SONNBLICK (9,843 feet).

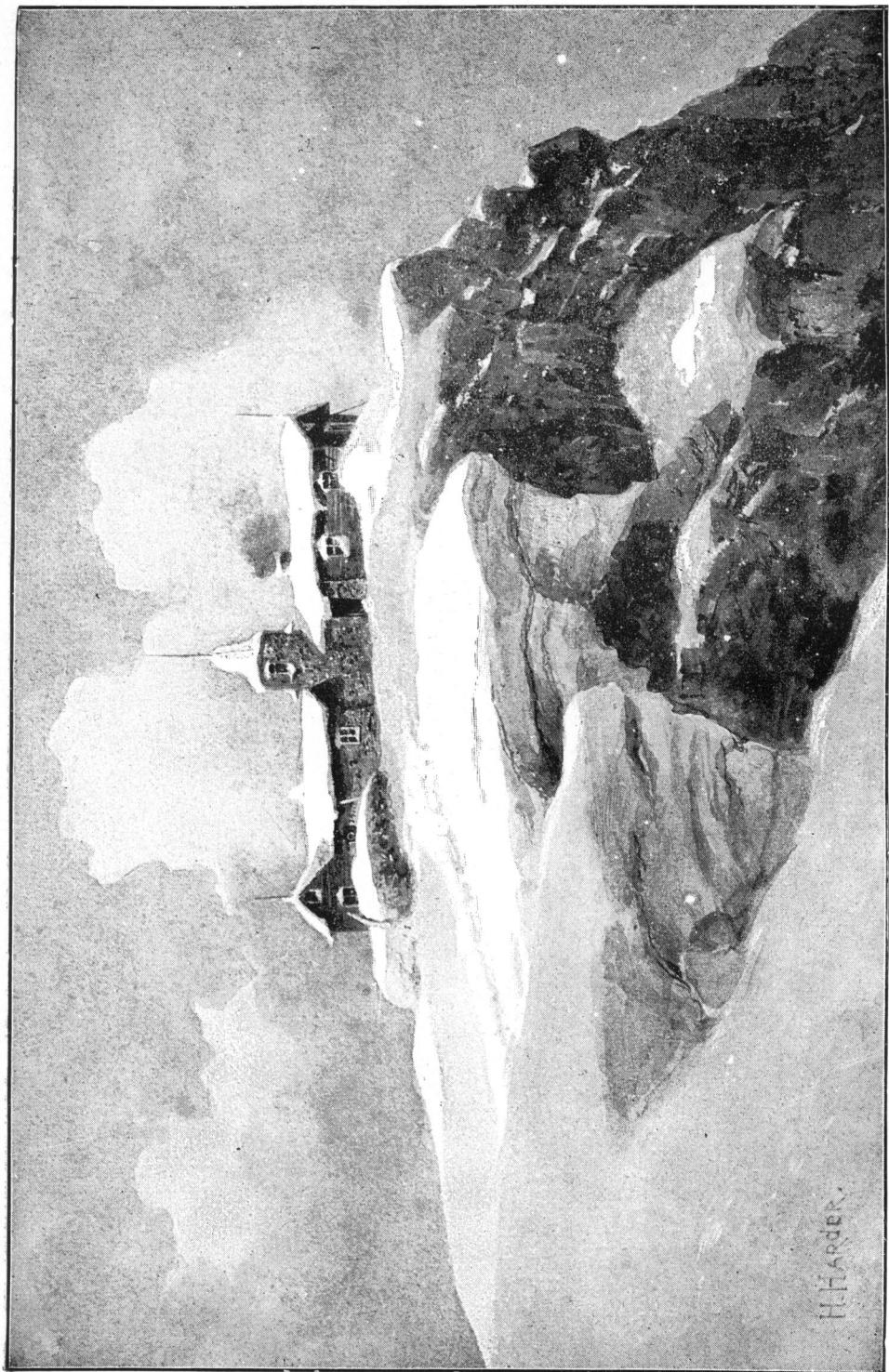
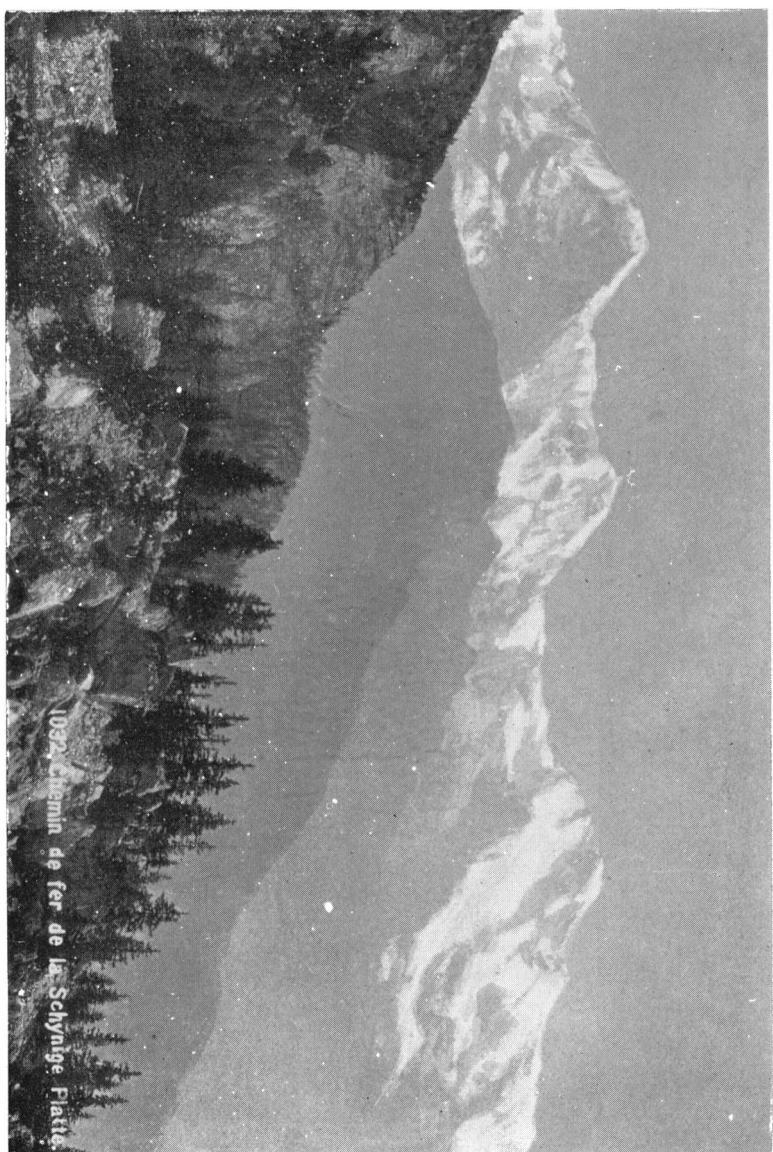
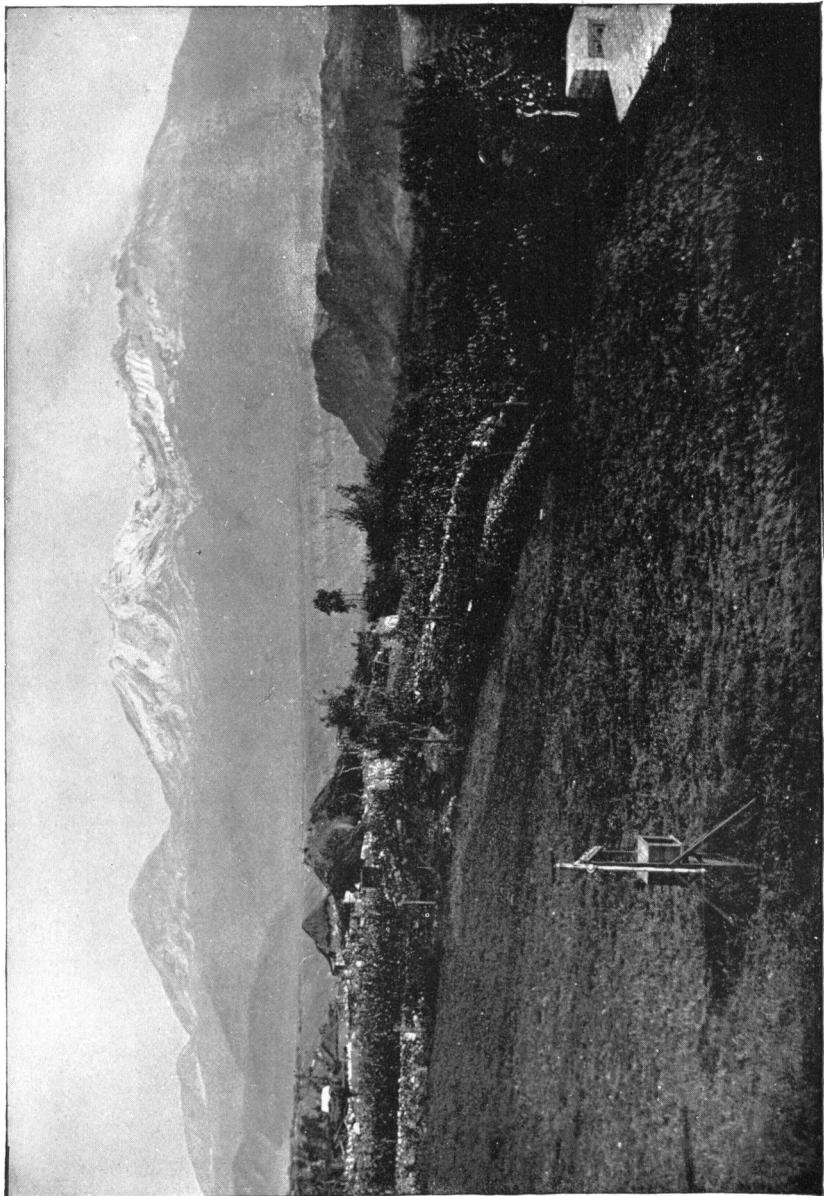


FIGURE 14.—PANORAMA OF THE JUNGFRAU RANGE (Eiger, Monch, Jungfrau).



*FIGURE 12.—MT. CHACHANI, FROM THE AREQUIPA OBSERVATORY.*



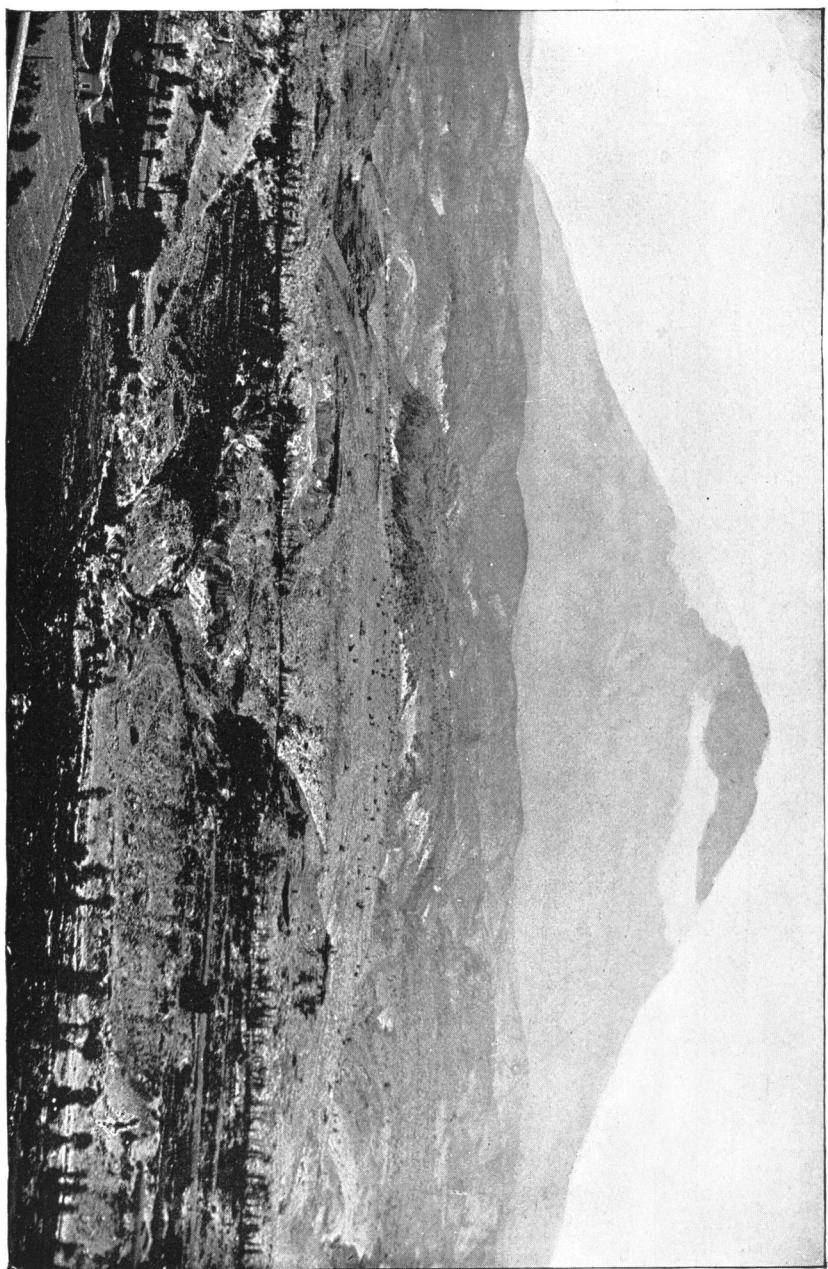


FIGURE 13.—EL MISTI, FROM THE AREQUIPA OBSERVATORY.

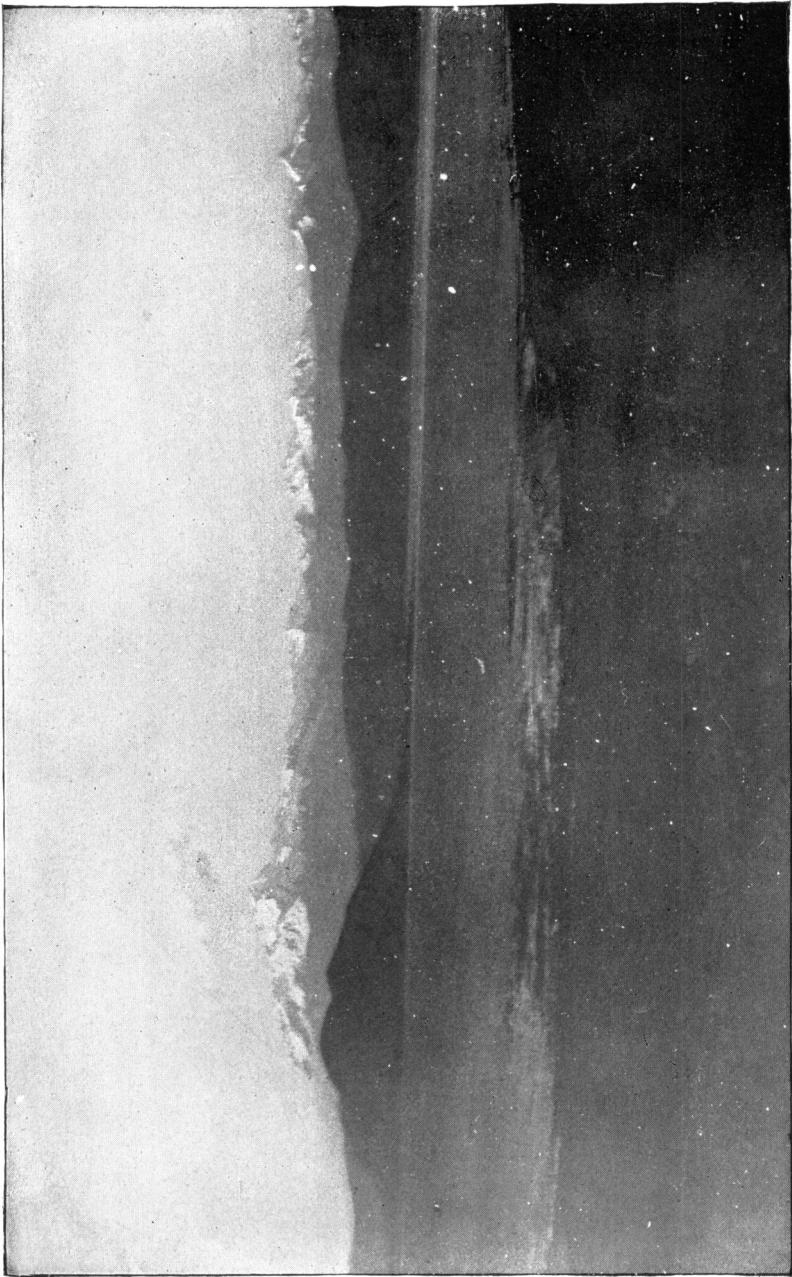


FIGURE 14.—ILLAMPU (the Highest of the Andes) AND THE SORATA RANGE, SEEN OVER LAKE TITICACA.



FIGURE 15.—CHIMBORAZO, (20,545 feet).

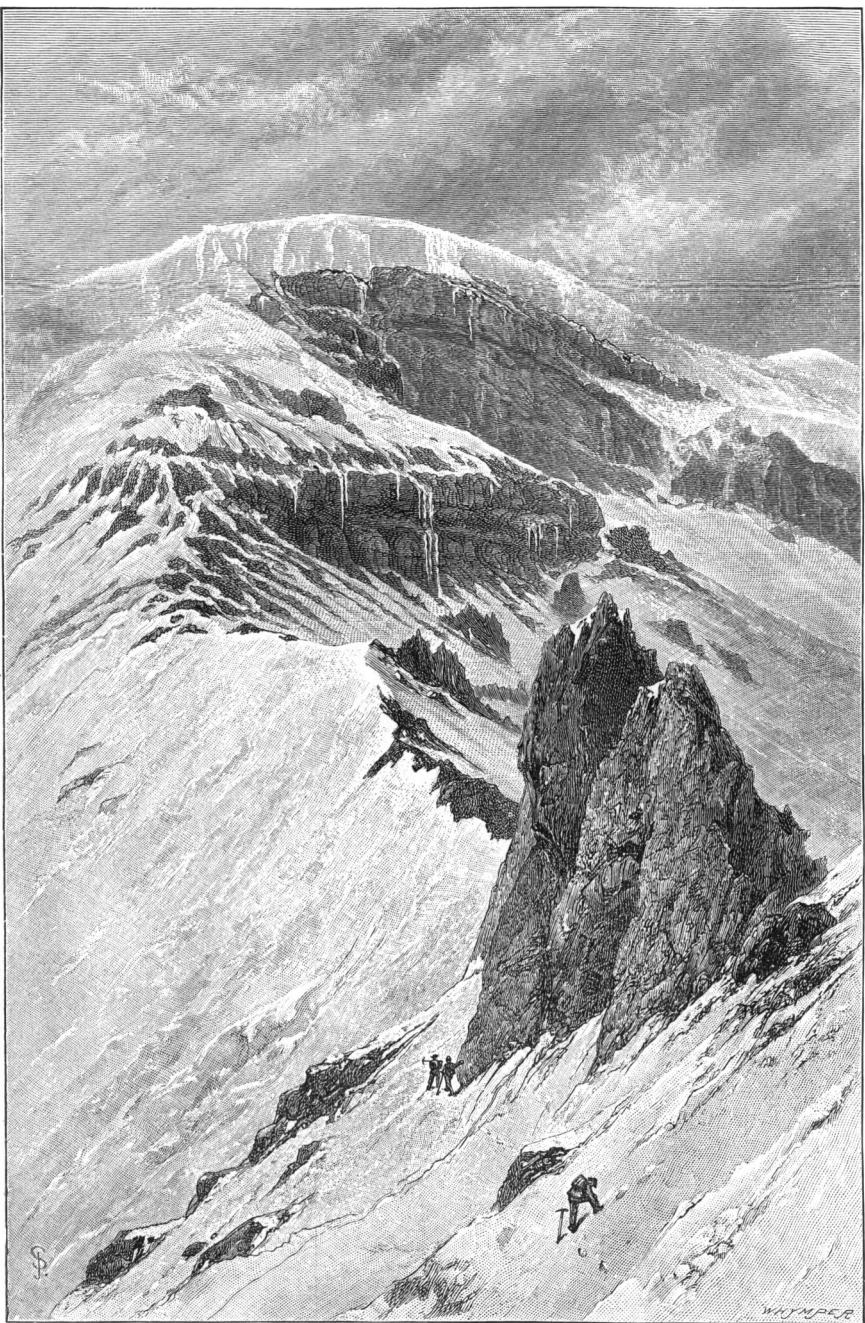


FIGURE 16.—CHIMBORAZO FROM A POINT 17,450 FEET ABOVE SEA.

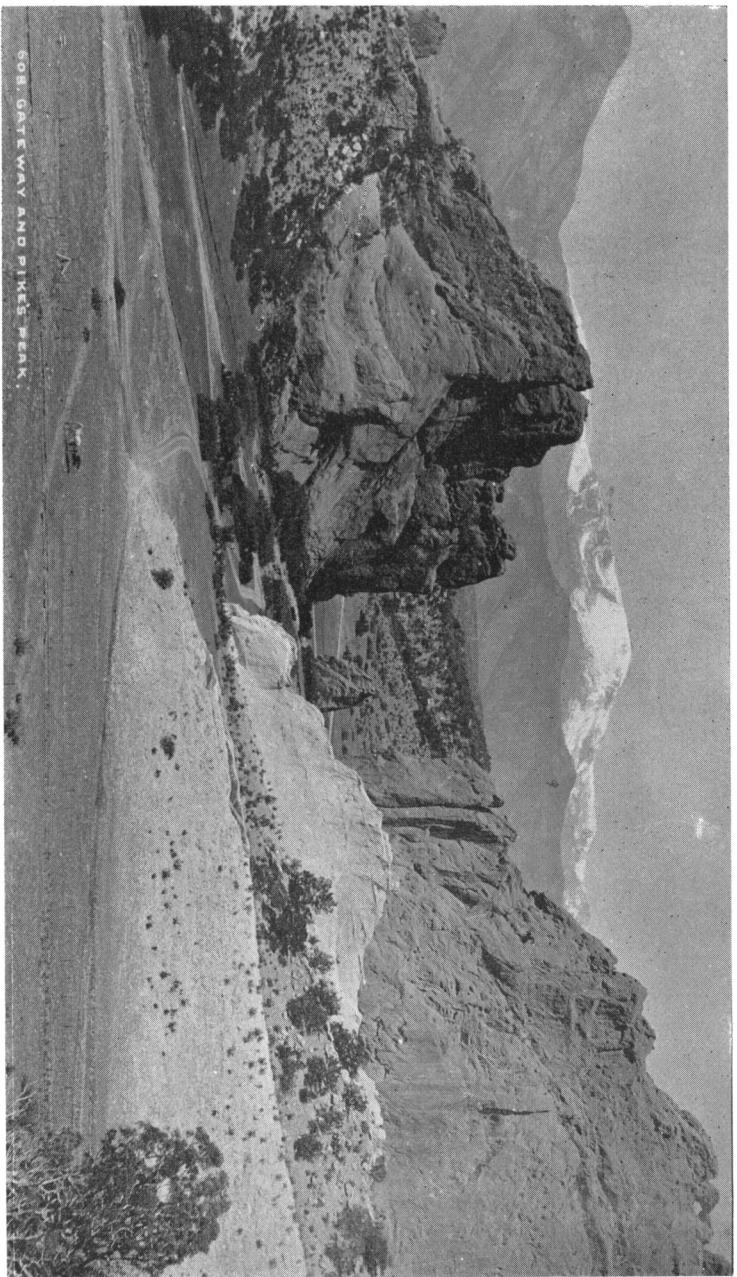
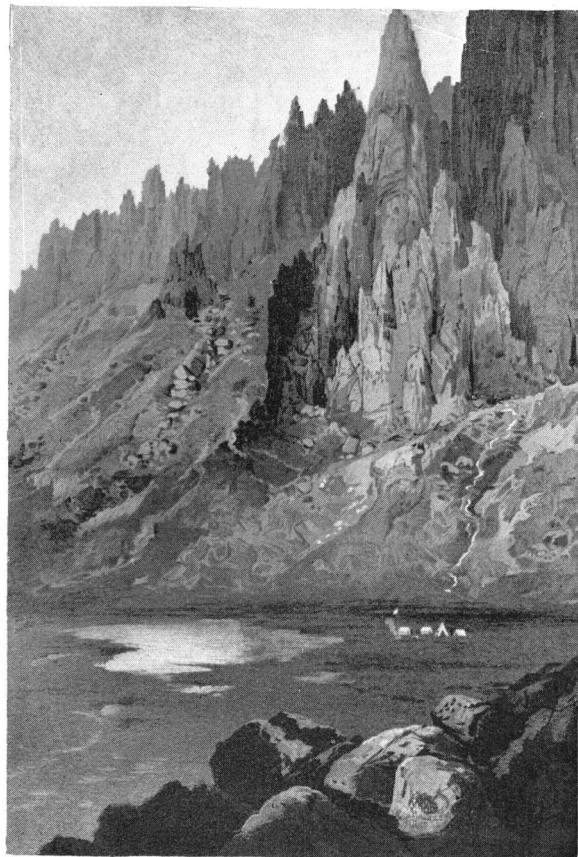


FIGURE 7.—DISTANT VIEW OF PIKE'S PEAK, (14,134 feet).

605. GATEWAY AND PIKE'S PEAK.



FIGURE 18.—MT. WHITNEY (14,900 feet), FROM THE WEST.



*FIGURE 19:—MOUNTAIN CAMP, MT. WHITNEY CALIFORNIA,  
(12,000 feet).*

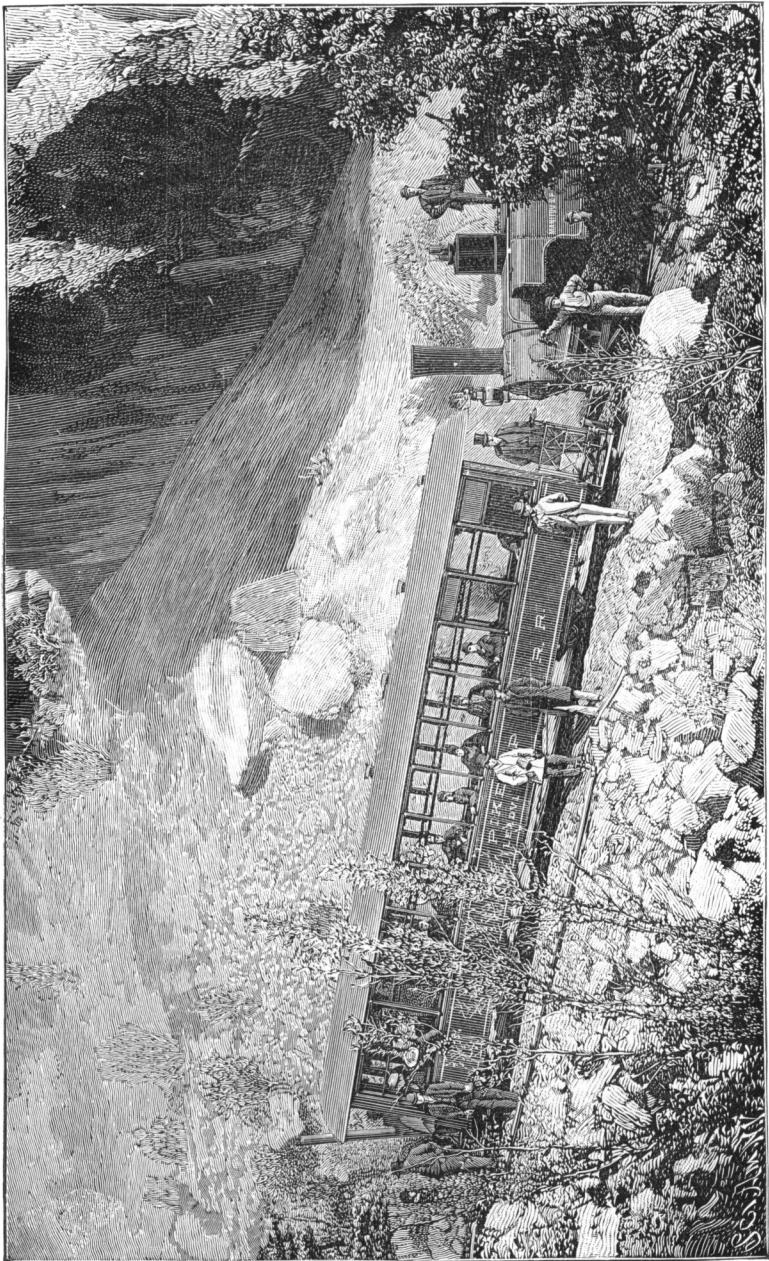


FIGURE 20.—VIEW OF THE RAILWAY TO THE SUMMIT OF PIKE'S PEAK.



FIGURE 21.—VIEW OF THE RAILWAY TO THE SUMMIT OF PIKE'S PEAK.

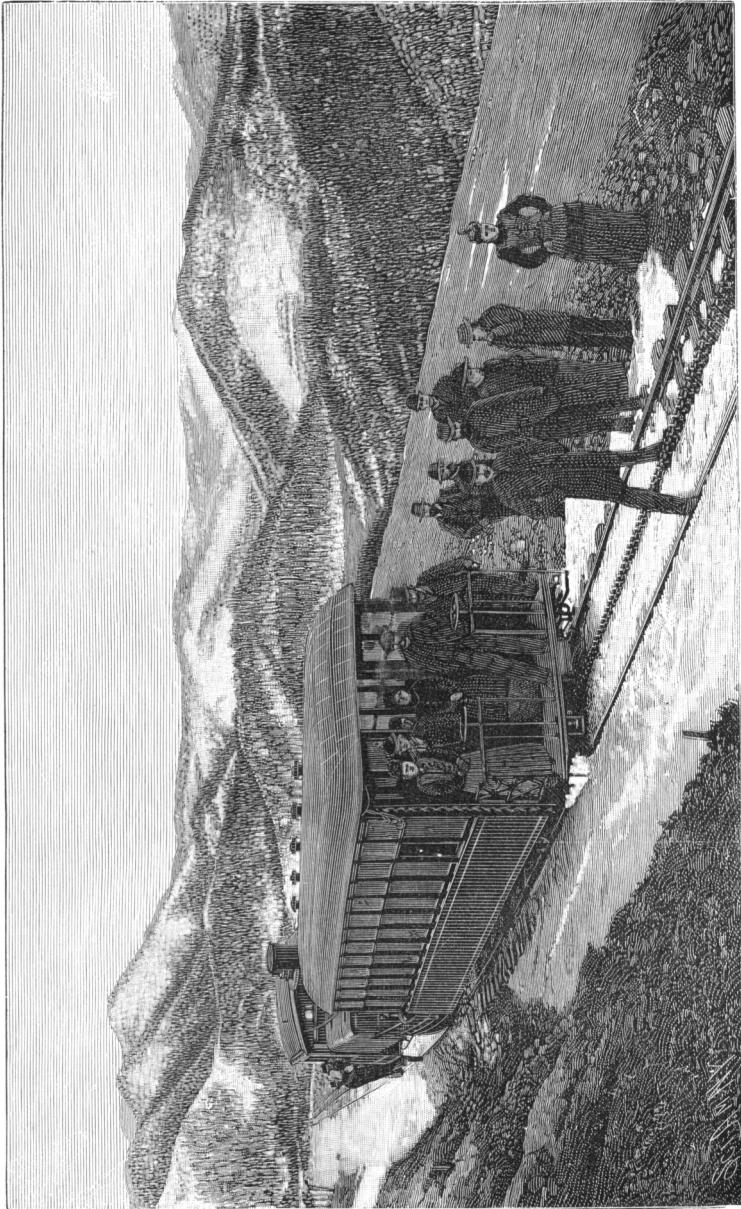


FIGURE 22.—VIEW OF THE RAILWAY TO THE SUMMIT OF PIKE'S PEAK.

FIGURE 23:—VIEW OF THE RAILWAY TO THE SUMMIT OF PIKE'S PEAK.

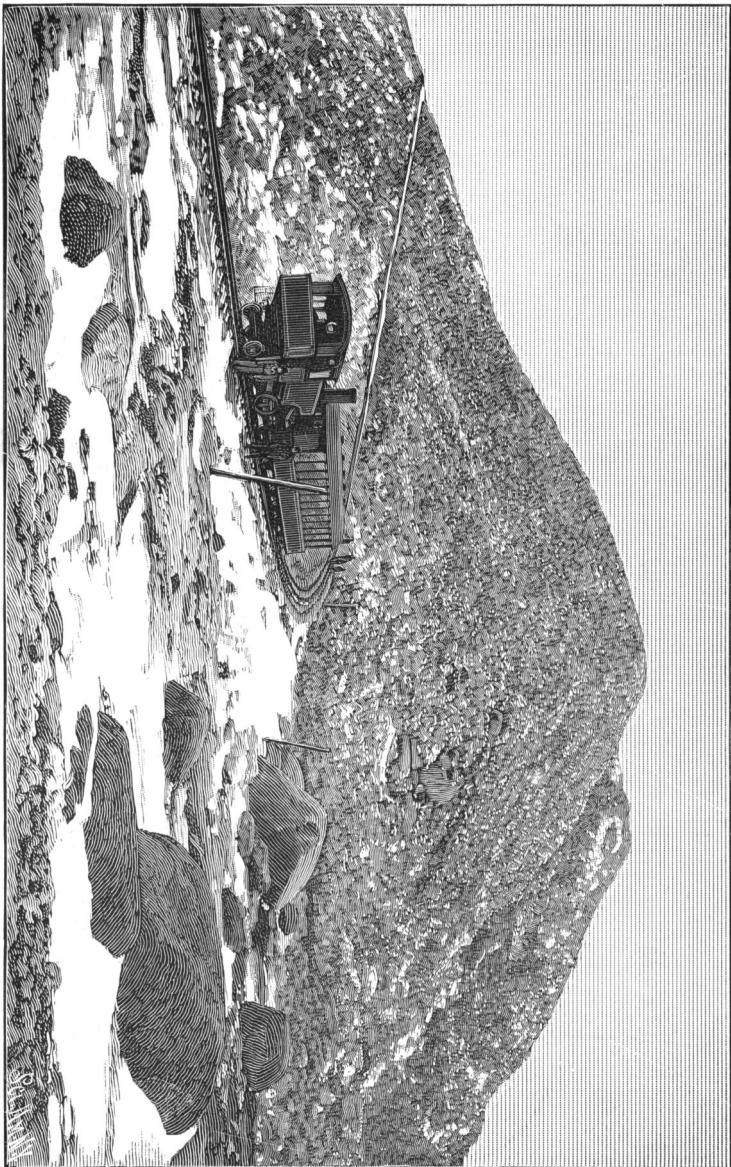


FIGURE 24.—VIEW OF THE LOWE OBSERVATORY ON ECHO MOUNTAIN, (3,500 feet).

